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DEVELOPMENT OF POLISH STATE FARMS

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State Administration of Agriculture Prior to Polish State Farms

The Poles assumed authority over the Polish lands as the Red Army liberated them. Temporarily, offices similar to those existing prior to 1939 were set up. The Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform was reconstituted and all government offices existing prior to 1939 which had been subordinate to this ministry were reactivated. Land reforms had priority and a drive to expedite them was undertaken at once. Toward this end, a huge apparatus was created both in the ministry and in the field. An authorized agent of the office of land reform was appointed in each powiat, responsible to the wojewodstwo authorized agent, who in turn was responsible to the national authorized agent.

Landowners who had disregarded the request to vacate their properties before the approach of the Red Army were ordered to leave the powiat at once. Fearing a strong reactionary movement on the part of the more influential persons, the authorities sometimes removed such persons from the wojewodstwo. Organizations such as the PRZ (Państwowe Nieruchomości Ziemiańskie, State Land Holdings), and the Land Reserve Fund sprang up in the wojewodstwo land offices. The authorized agent of land reform, in close cooperation with the land commissioner, decided which farms were to be handed over to the PRZ and which were to be divided according to the provisions of land reform.

Usually estates which were economically sound, which had better soil and had not been ruined by war operations, were handed over to the PRZ in their entirety. Often two or three smaller estates were joined together. Farms with poor soil, which were devastated by the war, were used for land reform purposes. Normally, the authorized agent of land reform, with the assistance of the rural commission, casually divided the land among the peasant farmers. The size of the portions varied. These differences were expected by the government to result in class struggle in the villages. Controls were introduced in subsequent stages.

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In prewar Poland the greater part of the arable land belonged to the owners of large estates. Very few of the large estates were included in the land reform program, in fact just enough to provide a basis for propaganda advantageous to the government. At the time, the PNZ was unable to handle the remaining estates and, on the other hand, the true purposes of the government had to remain hidden.

The arrival of Red Army units was opportune. Two or three large estates in each powiat were usually assigned to the Red Army. The people were unable to interpret this properly. It was explained as a settlement of accounts with the Red Army. Various institutions and offices were also allotted several large estates and temporarily, under the guise of a defective development of the food supply, the main purpose was hidden. In Jelenia Gora Powiat the Red Army used four estates until 1947; the powiat UB (Urząd Bezpieczeństwa, Security Police), 3 estates; the województwo UB, one estate; trade schools, 3 estates; the powiat administration, 2 estates; the Cieplica health resort, 2 estates; the Ministry of Social Welfare, 2 estates; the linen factory, 2 estates; and the Ministry of Transportation, 2 estates. The PNZ itself actually used only four estates. Similar situations were noted in all other powiats.

The apparent carrying out of the land reforms removed the matter from public notice and the PNZ, temporarily unable to manage such large properties, gained time in which to prepare to take them over. It may be added here parenthetically that in the central województwos and in the Regained Territories the Land Reform Law covered estates of over 50 hectares and in Pomorze, Poznan, and Katowice województwos, estates of over 100 hectares. The estates used by institutions and the army created a land reserve fund for the PNZ.

The area of arable land held by the PNZ fluctuated constantly, even as it still does under the PGR (Państwowe Gospodarstwa Rolne, State Farms), since the sources of additional land have not yet been exhausted. In 1947, when the villages slowly became aware of the political situation, peasant land hunger ceased to be an important problem. A slow exodus to the cities had begun. Slowly the large estates were incorporated into the PNZ setup. Toward the end of 1948, all reserve lands from former estates were utilized by the PNZ. By 1947 certain agricultural offices such as the powiat farm bureaus and chambers of agriculture began to be liquidated. This action released administrative personnel needed by the PNZ. Furthermore, it eliminated potential nests of reaction in the villages.

Farms under PNZ administration were in a very dilapidated condition. The shortage of skilled workers to run the farms and the shortage of labor resulted in a constant lag in planned output. The lack of draft power, tools, and machines made farms unprofitable. Farms formerly leased to various institutions, especially those leased to the Red Army, passed into the hands of the PNZ completely devastated. Not only were the farms stripped of agricultural machinery and livestock, but the buildings were completely useless. In addition, the relatively poor pay of the farm hand not only discouraged productivity but forced him to acts of sabotage. Often whole strips of land had been tilled but not sown or thinly sown because workers stole the seed and rode around the fields with empty sowing machines.

Toward the end of 1948, the POM (Państwowe Ośrodki Maszynowe, State Machine Centers) were created. Some of the tools and machines had been collected from small farms. The purpose of the POM was to assist the PNZ in cultivation. At first the help of these machine centers was insignificant. The fallow lands remained untouched and even increased in number. Harvested root crops froze. The sugar beet yield on the Myslakowice Farm in Jelenia Gora Powiat averaged 60 quintals per hectare in 1948. The Milkow Farm in the same powiat harvested even less. In the PNZ, fields were full of weeds. The state then called to the peasants for help. Under the slogans "Struggle for the liquidation of fallow lands," and "Battle with weeds," the drive was 80 percent successful.

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In 1949, the PNZ was completely reorganized and all the powiat and wojewodz-two field offices were closed. The PNZ administration was dissolved and replaced by a new one. The Soviet pattern of organization was adopted wholesale, although the term "sovkhoz" was not used, being replaced by the Polish PGR. In 1951 the PGR was completely cut off from the influence of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform, and a separate Ministry of State Farms was created, taking the place of the former Department of State Farms under the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform.

The Ministry of State Farms is divided into six departments: (1) Crop Production, (2) Livestock Production, (3) Training, (4) Seeds, (5) Fisheries, (6) Planning. Each wojewodztwo is divided into PGR regional administrations. The number of regions is proportionate to the number of powiats in a wojewodztwo. A larger wojewodztwo has two regions, while a smaller wojewodztwo comprises one region. For example, Wroclaw Wojewodztwo has the Wroclaw and Legnica regions, Lublin Wojewodztwo has two, and Kielce Wojewodztwo has one region.

The PGR regional administration is divided into six divisions: (1) General, (2) Personnel, (3) Organization, (4) Crop Production, (5) Livestock Production, (6) Planning. The Crop Production Division is divided into the following offices: Industrial Crops, Seeds, and Forage. The Livestock Production Section is divided into seven offices: (1) Cattle Breeding, (2) Hog Breeding, (3) Sheep Breeding, (4) Horse Breeding, (5) Poultry Breeding, (6) Miscellaneous Livestock, (7) Fish.

The chief director is the head of the PGR region. The second in rank is the personnel director, who is always a permanent US agent. The director of a region need not be an expert, but the chiefs of the planning and production divisions must have professional training. The production office managers may be persons who rose from the ranks.

The PGR regional administration is broken down into groups. There may be from 10-20 groups in each region. The director of a PGR group is responsible for administration. In technical matters, the director is assisted by the group agronomist and the group zootechnician. In the regional administration the personnel director is the assistant director in charge of political affairs; in the group, the PZPR (Polska Zjednoczona Partja Robotnicza, United Polish Workers Party) group secretary is in charge of political matters and to some extent production, but without liability. The groups are broken down into state farms with a farm manager in charge. The number of white-collar workers on a PGR farm depends on the size of the farm. For example, a farm of 100-300 hectares has only an inventory clerk and a timekeeper who computes the work norms of the farmhands. A farm of 300-700 hectares is supposed to have a bookkeeper, inventory clerk, timekeeper, typist, and two foremen.

Manpower

Since the completion of plans depends on the smallest link of the PGR, the farm, both the group and regional administrations give it special attention. The farm manager is in the most vulnerable position. The organizational structure is such that every worker has the right to look into the technical management of the farm and to make changes in the organization of work; however, the farm manager alone is responsible for results. In each PGR farm a "farm council" is organized by the trade union. A delegate, chosen by the workers, has the same voice in the management of the farm as the farm manager, but without personal liability. The farm manager is supposed to be an expert in the profession, but a shortage of such personnel has resulted in filling the positions with persons who have come up from the ranks. For example, of the 14 groups of the Wroclaw PGR region, two group

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directors are farmers by vocation while the remaining 12 directors are former stablemen. Of the 13 PGR farm managers of the Machnice group in the Wroclaw region, three had agricultural training and the others were former stablemen. Of the 14 farm managers in the Tarnowiec group, six are experts and the rest rose from the ranks. Some regions have more and some have fewer skilled workers. The Legnica region, which took over the majority of the old PNZ personnel at its liquidation, is well-staffed. There are even agricultural engineers among the farm managers. The Krakow, Warsaw, and Kielce regions are among those adequately supplied with skilled personnel.

The table of organization of a PGR farm calls for about 13 workers for 100 hectares of cultivated land. Normally a farm of 500 hectares should have a staff of 65 people. Actually the staffs are so small that farm managers, fearing the consequences of not fulfilling the plan, are resigning. In the Machnice group, Wroclaw region, four farms have only 50 percent of the required staff, while nine farms have less than 25 percent of the required staff. The 500-hectare Sulislawice Farm has only eight people and not all of these are fit to work. The Tarnowiec group, Wroclaw region, has 50 percent of its required staff and is in that respect the leading group in the region. In the Legnica region, the situation is even worse. On 20 percent of the farms, the staff is less than 10 percent of the requirement. How then, are the plans fulfilled? City workers can answer this question.

At the peak of the farm season, from the beginning of harvesting to the gathering of root crops in late fall, every person employed in industry, offices, and cooperatives is obliged to work 6-8 days a month for the PGR. Despite reluctance and fatigue, people must go if they do not wish to incur disfavor. Whereas even the sympathizers of the regime are reluctant to work in the fields, at least they try not to sabotage the work. On the other hand, those opposing the regime, who are in the majority, not only work reluctantly but destroy crops. Sometimes as much as 30 percent of the harvest is lost. This "voluntary" work is not paid for but is donated to the state.

Most of the official reports of overfulfillment are not true. On 13 August 1951 the press reported that the Wroclaw region completed the harvest, that 30 percent of the fall ploughing was completed, and that the state farms were getting ready for thrashing. Actually, the state of affairs was quite different. The harvest began during the first half of July. By 13 August 1951, 30 percent of the rye had not yet been cut, and only about 30 percent was stacked. Because of a long rainy period, other grains ripened simultaneously and kernels of wheat were falling off their stalks before the reaping began. In understaffed farms, rape-seed and winter barley rotted in the field.

The chief reason for such losses is the low pay of the worker. Norms have been established for all farm jobs, and hourly rates are almost nonexistent. If a regular PGR employee makes 400 slotys a month working 11 hours a day during the summer months he is doing well. During the winter months he makes barely 200 slotys. Some norms are set so high that fulfillment is impossible. The pay for cutting one hectare of fallen rye with a scythe is 46 slotys. According to the table of norms, this work should take 2 days but usually takes 3-4 days. Compensation for white-collar workers is also low. A group director receives 580-610 slotys base pay plus a 150-sloty merit supplement, depending on the category of the group. A farm manager receives 540 slotys base pay plus a 100-sloty merit supplement. The inventory clerk, timekeeper, and bookkeeper receive up to 540 slotys. The collective agreement for white-collar workers is quite good. The group director and the farm manager may receive a premium of 600 percent of the yearly base pay. The premium is payable at the end of the year. If even one report is behind schedule during the year, the entire premium is forfeited. The collective agreement for 1950 provided for a premium of 25 percent of the monthly base pay for white-collar workers.

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This year's contract bases premiums on the completion of tasks which are impossible. However, the farmhand and white-collar worker can benefit from certain privileges. A worker has the right to rent a portion of land to raise potatoes, 2,000 square meters for himself and 500 square meters for each member of the family. He has the right to keep two cows for a fee. The payment for one cow is about 54 zlotys a month. If the worker possesses a small reserve of money and can buy a cow and two pigs, he is better off. However, such instances are rare. There are no social welfare benefits for the worker. Conditions for seasonal workers are even worse.

State farm laborers are divided into four categories: (1) functionaries like watchmen and stablemen, paid by the month; (2) permanent workers, paid by the job but obliged to stay on the job, with the right to a 3-month leave of absence upon prior request; (3) part-time workers, usually families of the workers mentioned in the first two categories; (4) seasonal workers, who live more than 6 kilometers away from the farm or are recruited from other wojewodztwos from the second half of March to mid-December. These workers receive 3.60 zlotys per day as maintenance. The farm must provide food and housing not to exceed the sum of 3.60 zlotys. The food defies description and the housing is also poor. The PGR has difficulty in recruiting this kind of worker. Labor discipline in Poland makes people reluctant to work for the PGR.

#### PGR Expansion

Although land reserves are still available for the further expansion of state farms, PGR land ownership is already stabilized in central Poland. There, after the land reform was carried out, all surplus land was taken over by the PKZ. On the other hand, land reserves still exist in the Regained Territories, in Rzeszow Wojewodztwo, and even in part of Lublin Wojewodztwo.

In the Regained Territories, Polish citizens were settled on former German farms of varied sizes. First, the ministry issued an order providing for farms up to 20 hectares. Later, the passage of the first land-regulation act in 1946 reduced farms to 15 hectares. This regulation was voided. The 1947 land regulation also provided for urban zoning. In connection with this second regulation, a mass enfranchisement of peasant farmers began. After each land regulation act, a part of the land went to the Land Reserve Fund, which was later absorbed by the PGR.

The third land regulation, which went into effect in 1948, automatically canceled all previous regulations, limited the size of farms to 10 hectares, and also took into consideration urban zoning. Preparations for the Merger Congress in December 1948 and the opposition of Gomułka, former Minister of Regained Territories, prevented full implementation of the last regulation. Meanwhile, the peasants were seething and the matter was temporarily dropped. In 1949 the acts of enfranchisement were voided and the regulation of 1948 was slowly brought back to life. The land reform has not yet been completed but is now modified to conform to the requirements of producers' cooperatives being set up on a large scale in the Regained Territories.

In addition to the lands received through the land acts, the authorities have gone so far as to liquidate entire villages to increase PGR holdings, as in the case of Trzebnica Powiat, Wroclaw Wojewodztwo. The Sulislawice State Farm needed more land to create an independent unit and a whole village was liquidated. Since the peasants had no alternative, they were forced to go to work at the PGR farm. The authorities gained in two ways: they increased their holdings and acquired additional workers for the PGR. Hundreds of such examples could be cited. Similar conditions exist in Rzeszow and Lublin wojewodztwos. In 1946 - 1947 all the Ukrainians were removed from these wojewodztwos, and the same population movements took place here as in the Regained Territories.

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The size of PGR holdings is thus subject to constant change. The holdings can be estimated as follows: Assuming that an average group administers 5,000 hectares, then the Wroclaw region alone would have about 70,000 hectares of farm land. Using the same figures for the Legnica region, Wroclaw Wojewodztwo would have a total of 130,000 hectares of agricultural land. Neither the group nor regional managements possess exact figures at this time. These matters are now being attended to by the proper authorities. There are in Poland 15 agricultural wojewodztvos. Taking an average of 130,000 hectares for one wojewodztwo, it can be estimated that the PGR farm land holdings exceed 2 million hectares.

#### Planning

The success of a PGR farm or group manager depends upon his ability to recruit workers. Professional skill is less important. The Planning Division prepares in advance instructions for the production of a given crop, taking into consideration the over-all plan for the crop. All plans stipulating the area to be sown with a given crop (a percentage of the acreage), the yield, and the amount of fertiliser to be used are handed down from above. However, the farm managers may exceed the plan through work competition.

Planning plays a very important role in the PGR. The Planning Division on the regional level has a heavy workload and is divided into several offices, each headed by an executive. For a realistic approach, the plan must be based on the smallest administrative unit. The smallest PGR unit is the farm regardless of size. It is assumed that the farm manager is a specialist, and that he understands the needs of the farm and its productive capacity. First, the farm manager begins with the annual labor cost broken down into monthly periods. With unchanged acreage, this is based on data for the preceding year. Since the pay of white-collar workers and workers working at an hourly rate is unchanged, the farm manager can work out the budget by the month for the entire year. For seasonal and temporary workers, he bases his calculations on the busy months, namely spring, summer, and autumn. The pay of permanent workers is calculated the same as that of seasonal workers, taking into account certain deductions. For example, the estimated labor costs for a 500-hectare farm, not fully staffed, are given below (in slotys).

Manager, category II, 700 slotys a month x 12	8,400
Three white-collar workers, 450 slotys a month x 12 x 3	16,200
An overseer, blacksmith, watchman, saddler, wheelwright, 420 a month x 12 x 5	25,200
Ten workers employed on an annual basis, 300 slotys x 12 x 10	36,000
Seasonal workers, 7 months, 40 farmhands, at 300 slotys x 7 x 40	84,000
Total planned budget	169,800
Plus 5% of above to cover wages of apprentices in the summer season	8,490
	178,290

For comparison, the following are actual salary budgets of a few farms (in slotys):

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Nowy Dwor Farm, Machnice group, 780 hectares, estimated labor costs for 1950-51	242,000
Sulislawice Farm, Machnice group, 460 hectares	169,000
Skarzyn Farm, Machnice group, 500 hectares	182,000

The planned labor costs may fluctuate 10-15 percent in either direction depending on the number of workers employed and the type of farm. The estimate of labor costs is sent to the group, which prepares the plans for the entire group and sends the estimate on through the proper channels for approval. If the farm manager stays within the planned budget, he receives a premium of 100 percent of his yearly base pay in accordance with the collective agreement. If wage costs of the entire group do not exceed the plan, the group director receives 300 percent.

The farm manager, in cooperation with the PGR construction group manager, also prepares an investment plan. Since the Ministry of State Farms is putting through a crop zoning program, the investments are quite large. In the near future, about 30 percent of the state farms will be entirely remodeled. On the remaining farms, buildings require constant maintenance.

The farm manager is instructed by higher authorities on the crops to be cultivated and percentage of area sown to each. He then prepares his quantitative sowing and harvesting plans. For example, the Ministry of State Farms assigns an over-all crop quota to a region, the regions in turn assign the group quotas, and finally, the farm manager is assigned his quota. In 1950 - 1951 PGR plans provided that 25 percent of the total area be sown to rye, 10 percent to winter wheat, 3 percent to winter rapeseed, 10 percent to oats, 10 percent to barley, 8 percent to sugar beets, 10 percent to legumes, 6 percent to flax, 5 percent to mixed seeds, and 10 percent to potatoes. In the current agricultural year the plans are greatly changed, influenced to a certain extent by the general world situation. For comparison, the following table gives the percentage of total PGR area planned for respective crops in the years 1950 - 1951 and 1951 - 1952:

	<u>Percent of Total PGR Area</u>	
	<u>1950 - 1951</u>	<u>1951 - 1952</u>
Winter rye	25	8
Winter wheat	10	20
Winter rapeseed	3	10
Winter barley	3	5
Oats	10	10
Spring barley	10	10
Sugar beets	8	10
Flax	6	8

Other crops have been introduced which have not been previously cultivated on PGR farms. The current year's plan provides for such crops as corn, hemp, and poppies. Formerly these crops were not cultivated at all or cultivated only in small amounts. Each state farm must plant about 2 hectares of medicinal herbs.

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The farm manager prepares a crop production plan for the entire farm on the basis of the percentage figures and forwards the crop production plan to the higher authorities. The quantitative plan no longer confines itself to the number of hectares to be sown to a given crop but also includes the probable yield per hectare. On the basis of this, the higher authorities allocate fertilizer and seed; the beginning and the close of the campaign are regulated by the higher authorities.

The spring planting begins 15 March and ends 15 July. The writer witnessed the planting of sugar beets on 8 July in the Nowy Dwor Farm in Trzebnica Powiat. The farm manager knew that these sugar beets would have to be plowed under in August but he was interested only in completing the sowing campaign. Such incidents are very frequent in the PGR.

Whereas the production, investment, and labor input plans are worked out by the farm and approved by the regional administration and the ministry, the type of production and the various campaigns and production plans are imposed from above. Since the farm manager receives a 50-percent annual premium for completing the production plan, he might abuse his position by planning lower yields. If the regional administration determines that the estimated yield is too low, the responsible person is called to account. The UB puts the farm under surveillance for acts of sabotage. Normally, plans for bread grains are quite successful because the state farms receive an adequate supply of fertilizer. Root crops and industrial crops do not fare as well.

The 1950 - 1951 plan for winter rapeseed was 12 quintals per hectare. Some sections of Poland fulfilled only 30-70 percent of the plan, and the average was probably 45 percent. The sugar beet situation was worse. A yield of 250 quintals per hectare was planned. Meanwhile it became necessary to plow under 30 percent of the area sown for lack of farmhands to care for the crop, and the remainder yielded only from 150-180 quintals per hectare. This year the potato crop did not quite come up to expectations. Because of the potato beetle plague, production was very expensive. In Wrocław Wojewodztwo, the potato beetle plague broke out in Trzebnica, Oborniki, Swidnica, and Wrocław Powiats simultaneously.

Mechanization

Mechanization affects production plans. The regional PGR administration has a special office of mechanization. Each group has a mechanic who is responsible for efficient operation and servicing of the machines. Until 1950 the POM helped the PGR exclusively. With the rapid increase in the producers' cooperatives, the POM was instructed to give the cooperatives priority, and the PGR had to rely on their own resources. The state is trying to supply them with machines, especially tractors. According to plan, the PGR should have one tractor for every 100 hectares of land. At the moment there is one for each 150 hectares. The situation would be tolerable if the tractors were of the Ursus type, modeled on the Lanz. Unfortunately, many of the tractors are UB tractors received under UNRRA. After 5 years of operation without spare parts, these are almost useless. There is barely one Ursus for 350 hectares of land, and there are few draft animals to take the place of tractors. According to plan, there ought to be five draft animals for every 100 hectares. At present there are only 50-60 percent of the planned quota of horses on the farms. As a result, tractors in good condition are often used for 20 hours without change of operator. On state farms, long before sowing and harvesting campaigns begin, technical personnel are trained to operate and service the machines but shortages of skilled workers often lead to failures and even damages.

Not only is there a lack of tractors and skilled workers, but there is a great shortage of harvesting machines. Until 1950 the brunt of the work rested upon the sheaf binders collected from the individual peasant farms. Tractor-drawn

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binders were few, two to five for a group. There were no binder-type harvesters in former central Poland, even on the estates. The machines left by the Germans are nearing the end of usefulness, especially since there are no spare parts. The USSR does not possess enough combines to equip Poland. For propaganda purposes, one combine was sent to service a region of 70,000 hectares but the Poles were unable to use it in the first year.

Machines such as the potato combine, wheat chaffers, and potato planters are more numerous. But Poland cannot profit from these, since the entire method of cultivation would first have to be changed, all the implements now in use scrapped, and the country entirely equipped with USSR power machines. This would not be to the USSR's advantage.

In 1950 only 20-40 sheaf binders were left by Germans to service an area of 5,000-9,000 hectares. Normally it is taken for granted that 30 percent of these are inactive and in repair, so that the group actually had only 25 sheaf binders at its disposal. Assuming that a group has an acreage of 7,000 hectares, 60 percent, or 4,200 hectares, of which is sown to grain, one sheaf binder would service 170 hectares a season. Assuming the harvest season to be 30 days, excluding Sundays and holidays, one harvesting machine would have to service 5.5 hectares a day, or 7 hectares allowing for rainy days. Since this would require an 18-20 hour working day, it becomes clear why the PGR harvesting is delayed.

The present year (1951) has been particularly critical in this respect. Rye was to be cut in 8 days but not one farm completed even 50 percent of the plan. Even farms well-supplied with harvesting machines were unable to use more than one or two sheaf binders. One after another, the old, rickety machines collapsed. Under a trade agreement with Poland, Czechoslovakia furnished Poland with tractor-drawn binders in 1950. Every group received three Agrostroj sheaf binders. The Agrostrojs turned out to be fiascos. The imperfect binding apparatus could not be adjusted properly. The cast-metal parts were not very durable. After 2 or 3 days' work the machines were usually inactivated for repairs. Farm managers on their own responsibility began to repair the old post-German wrecks. In Czechoslovakia, Agrostrojs work beautifully, but on a rubber-tired chassis.

PGR threshing machines are just as inadequate. According to plan, each farm is to be supplied with one threshing machine of 12-18 tons' daily capacity and one smaller threshing machine. Only 80 percent of the state farms have one threshing machine. Most of the threshing machines are those the Germans left behind. Each group recently received one threshing machine from Czechoslovakia. Early in spring, long before the threshing started, all the threshing machines were given a complete overhauling. The plan called for threshing winter rapeseed and winter barley in the field. If the group acreage is 7,000 hectares, the plan allots 420 hectares for the cultivation of two kinds of grain. With a rapeseed yield of 4-6 quintals per hectare and winter barley 12 quintals per hectare this year (1951), the yield from 420 hectares will be 3,780 quintals of grain or 378 tons. With 10-16 farms in a group, and taking 13 farms as an average, each farm will have about 30 tons to thresh.

The rapeseed and barley ought to be threshed in 3 days at the most, assuming that a machine working 11 hours a day can thresh 15 tons. Actually, threshing of rapeseed was stopped and the machines were inactivated for repairs. Meanwhile the harvest season arrived and the barley and rapeseed began to sprout in the field. The press was not silent; it reported that the harvest of rapeseed and winter barley was proceeding according to plan, the threshing almost completed, and the plan exceeded. The rapeseed yield was reported at 13 quintals per hectare and the barley yield up to 20 quintals per hectare.

PGR machinery on the whole is unable to achieve the high quotas assigned to it. A lack of equipment and spare parts delays fulfillment of plans. Nevertheless, mechanization of farms in Poland is steadily moving forward. The authorities

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in Poland have gone berserk on the subject of mechanization to the neglect of more pressing problems. Michurin's teachings have created the impression that agricultural science begins and ends with mechanized cultivation of the soil with tractors and artificial fertilizers. The fact that in another year or two crops will diminish disastrously through lack of natural fertilizers is overlooked.

#### Livestock

The PGR does not carry on a model livestock husbandry. The 5 years since liberation have failed to produce results in livestock breeding. There is a shortage of experts. Young and willing workers are being trained in special courses but experience is needed in this field. Some success has been achieved in hog breeding. Today the PGR are able to supply the producers' cooperatives and even part of the village with breeding stock. They can supply the KKW (Korpus Bezpieczeństwa Wewnętrznego, Internal Security Corps), the UB, Citizens' Militia, and party activists with slaughter animals. Every PGR region produces about 30,000-60,000 hogs for slaughter a year, a total of about one million for all the PGR in Poland. Some groups do not exceed 1,000 head for 13-14 farms while others have nearly 6,000 head for the group.

Cattle breeding is unsuccessful because 30 percent or more of the cow barns are contaminated with Bang's disease. The cattle in these cow barns are doomed and the rest of the livestock is worth little. An average yield of 6-7 liters of milk per barn <sup>per day</sup> is large. Valuable cattle are segregated to create breeding stock, but this work will take years. Some farms in a group have three to five cows and others have as many as 20 cows. The general aim is to have 24 mature cows for every 100 hectares of land, but this figure cannot be attained in the PGR in less than 10 years. At present there are from 130-160 cows and 400 head of young cattle in a group with a total acreage of 7,000 hectares.

In 1951 the state began to stress sheep raising. After the war the sheep herd in Poland was very small, but efforts in this direction have been quite successful. Romanov sheep were imported from the USSR. Rumanian Cakel sheep, which had been crossbred in the mountains during the occupation, were distributed through government subsidies. A few experts have achieved some important results by crossing the common Wrzoscowa sheep with the Romanov breed.

The authorities have begun a strong campaign to promote poultry raising. In spring every farm had to raise at least 300 chicks regardless of facilities. The plan aims toward the production of about 2,500 chickens per farm. Since the program was not planned in advance, it did not produce results. Some farms lost 50 percent of the chicks and others lost all of them. In 1950 there were still enough incubators left by the Germans. In 1951 the USSR made a token shipment of one incubator for each region. Other fowl are bred only in special poultry farms.

Although Poland has few veterinarians, there are enough to guarantee care for the PGR livestock. When it comes to livestock breeding, the authorities have a suspicious attitude. They watch for sabotage at every step. When an animal gets sick, the farm manager must notify a veterinarian at once. The PGR veterinarians are never negligent; on the contrary, they come as if the UB were after them. The veterinarian must make a written report in the presence of the Farm Council stating the cause of death or sickness. Should the farm manager fail to notify a veterinarian, he is accused of sabotage.

#### Specialization by Areas

Up to now, PGR have been carrying on diversified farming regardless of economic, climatic, and soil conditions. The plan worked out by higher authorities did not take into account the failure of some crops because of soil or location. Up to now, farms operating at a loss did not show up because the group was the

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smallest unit for accounting purposes, and the individual state farm was not allotted funds. Now, after reorganization, the state farm will be an independent unit with respect to funds and materials.

The specialization of farms is now being proposed. Farms in the foothills and mountainous areas where production of grain is not profitable will be converted to cattle and sheep raising. Farms located near the cities will fatten livestock for the market. Truck gardening will be initiated on these farms. Farms located in the vicinity of rivers, with meadows and natural pastures, will also be run as livestock farms. New farms will be sown to grains and other crops depending on the type of soil. Only sufficient livestock will be raised on these farms to provide for the needs of the given farm. Many farms will be completely rebuilt, especially those which do not have adequate accommodations for large herds.

After the liberation, and as late as 1948, there was a great shortage of seed in Poland. Ninety percent of the farms producing seed were nationalized. It is easily understood that seed cultivation cannot be carried on on a small farm. Few experimental stations were conducted by the state. Currently, seeds for carrots, mangel, corn, potatoes, and leguminous plants are produced by all the state farms. Grains and grasses are cultivated by special seed farms. Select and hybrid seeds are produced by experimental stations, but there are still not enough select seeds to supply all the farms. Private farms receive none. State farms whose managers are professional farmers are assigned a certain quota for seed production and, in return, receive an allowance of 100 zlotys a month for scientific purposes.

#### Collective Wage Agreements

The farm workers enter into a new collective agreement every fiscal year, which is from 1 July to 30 June. The norms and collective agreements are worked out by a commission of the farm workers' trade unions and representatives of the PGR.

Until 1949 the white-collar worker as well as the laborer received part of his pay in kind. Since 1949, payment has been in cash only. All farm produce taken from the farm must be paid for at the current free-market prices. According to the collective agreement, the worker has the right to buy a certain amount of produce from the PGR, but these are often higher than the same commodities on the free market. For example, on the free market milk costs 1-1.20 zlotys and the PGR price to the worker is 1.40 zlotys per liter. There is a charge for everything, from the lighting in his dwelling to the little garden next to his house. The worker is obliged to work 9 hours daily throughout the year. From April to August he works 11 hours daily. He is obliged to work on Sundays and holidays, as required, at double pay. For refusing to work on Sundays and holidays three times, he is brought before the court for breaking the labor discipline law. The same holds true if he does not appear for work three times.

The worker is paid by the 10th of the month for the month previously worked. If the work is poor, the worker is required to do it over without pay. If he refuses, the farm manager may assign the work to another laborer and charge it to the first worker. In event of bad weather, when the farm cannot employ the worker, he receives only the on-call pay of 0.60 zloty per hour. Should the worker feel that his time had not been properly calculated, he may appeal to the trade union.

Nearly all farm jobs have norms. Certain jobs for which it is difficult to work out norms are divided into the following categories: category I, hourly wage 1.90 zlotys; category II, 1.35; category III, 1.05; and category IV, .90 zloty.

Category I usually includes hard work such as carrying bags of grain, fertilizer, etc. Category II includes hauling of all sorts, such as moving sand, bricks, coal and wood. Category III includes tasks such as cleaning offices,

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washing floors, and raking up yards. Category IV includes the lightest work, such as sweeping, pitching straw into wagons, etc. Work in the field is not paid for by the hour. Some of the norms are as follows: 11 hours to weed 800 square meters of beets by hand, for 18 zlotys' pay. Normally a worker completes 50-60 percent of this norm, for which he receives 11 zlotys a day. For spreading fertilizer the norm for 11 hours is 4.40 hectares by hand. Normally 40 percent of this norm is completed. The unit of account is the hectare, ton, or piece. For spreading artificial fertilizer over one hectare the pay is 4.20 zlotys. By completing 70 percent of the norm the worker earns about 12 zlotys a day. When working with oxen or horses, the pay is even less. The norms for threshing and hauling are collective, and, upon completion of the job, the time is equally distributed among all the workers. For hauling a ton of grain, each worker gets 0.27 zloty to 0.42 zloty, for threshing from 0.90 zloty to 2.20 zlotys per ton, depending on the efficiency of the machine. The farm workers do not receive additional premiums for exceeding the norm. Generally speaking, the collective agreements exploit the farm workers more than any other class of labor.

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